

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, claims 2, 8-22 and 26-31 have been canceled as being directed to patentably distinct inventions non-elected for prosecution herein. However, cancellation of such claims has been effected without prejudice to the applicants' rights to file divisional applications under 35 USC §121.

Applicants hereby affirm the provisional election of claims 1, 3-7 and 23-25 acted upon by the Examiner in the subject Official Action.

Minor typographical errors have been corrected per the amendment instructions to the specification noted above.

As a further "housekeeping" matter, the Examiner's attention is directed to the Associate Power of Attorney and Change of Address (copy attached) which was recently filed in this application. The Examiner's assistance to ensure that all future PTO correspondence is directed to the undersigned at the new address of record will be appreciated.

I. Response to Drawing Objection

The original drawings have been objected to because the forked trilobal fiber was allegedly not shown therein. Accordingly, the Examiner asserts that the "forked trilobal fiber must shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)."

Applicants are somewhat perplexed by this assertion since it is stated on page 2, lines 11-12 that Figure 2 has "...a forked tri-lobal design." Moreover, on page 5, lines 27 et seq, the exemplary fiber of Figure 2 is said to be referred to in the specification as a "forked tri-lobal" fiber configuration.

Hence, contrary to the assertions in the Official Action, the original drawings do in fact already show the claimed "forked trilobal" configuration by at least the presentation of Figure 2. As such, no proposed drawing correction showing such a feature is needed. Withdrawal of the objection raised against the original drawings is therefore in order.

II. Response to Art-Based Rejection

The only issue remaining to be resolved in this application is the rejection advanced against all elected pending claims as allegedly anticipated (35 USC §102(b)) by Dugan (USP 6,093,491) taken optionally with "applicant's admission". As will become evident from the following discussion, applicants suggest that all claims pending herein are patentably distinguishable over the applied Dugan patent.

At the outset, applicants are unsure what "admission" the Examiner is referring to in his rejection. In this regard, the Examiner notes that "...applicant *admits* in claim 7 that Fig. 1 shows the fiber cross-sectional area of claim 1." (Official Action at page 5, lines 5-6, emphasis added.) However, claims are **not** admissions. Claims are definitions of an applicant's invention. That claim 7 refers to both claim 1 and states that the fiber has the cross-section of Figure 1 is thereby defining the invention in terms of the cross-section shape shown therein. Claim 7 is therefore a narrower definition of the applicants' invention as compared to claim 1. It most certainly is not an admission of anything other than the scope of claim 7 is defined in terms of the cross-sectional shape shown in Figure 1.

Thus, to the extent that the Examiner's rejection is premised on Claim 7 somehow being an "admission" of prior art, such rejection must fail. To be sure, claim 7 cannot possibly be construed as prior art which could "optionally" be taken with the Dugan patent to reject the pending claims herein. In any event, as will become evident

from the following discussion, all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance on substantive grounds.

The Examiner will note that claim 1 now recites that the **maximum** distance between adjacent lobes is located between adjacent areas of **maximum** width of each of the adjacent lobes. Support for such an expression can be found at page 6, line 25 et seq. Such a cross-sectional configuration and orientation of adjacent lobes is significant in that it provides improved dullness (i.e., reduced glare).

The applied Dugan patent is the antithesis of the herein claimed invention as defined by claim 1. Specifically, in direct contrast to the present invention, the maximum distance between adjacent lobes is actually located at or near the **minimum** – not maximum – width of each of the adjacent lobes. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to FIGURES 1-3 and 9 of the applied Dugan patent. As can be seen the distance between adjacent areas of substantially maximum width according to each of the Dugan fibers is actually a substantially **minimum** distance – not maximum. And, the lobal separation distance near adjacent areas of substantially minimum width according to each of the Dugan fibers is actually a substantially **maximum** distance.

Hence, Dugan cannot possibly anticipate or render unpatentable the present invention as claimed herein. To be sure, Dugan does not disclose or even remotely suggest a fiber as defined in applicants' claim 1 presented herein wherein the **maximum** distance between adjacent lobes is measured between adjacent areas of **maximum** width of each of the adjacent lobes.

Withdrawal of the rejection advanced in the subject Official Action based on the applied Dugan patent is therefore in order.

Robert H. BLACKWELL et al
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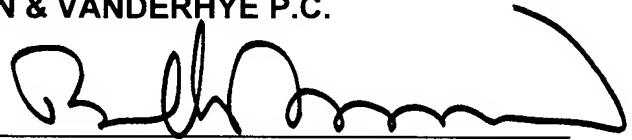
III. Conclusion

Every effort has been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants suggest that this application is in condition for prompt allowance and early official Notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Bryan H. Davidson
Reg. No. 30,251

BHD:fmh
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100